

Environmental Projects

*Help Yourself!
How to Use the Neighborhood Matching Fund
to Build Community*

Environmental Projects: An Introduction

What Is an Environmental Project?

Everyone has an environment. Our environment is wherever we live, even if we walk on more cement than soil. You don't have to have a stream running through your backyard. For that matter, you don't have to have a backyard.

And if everyone has an environment, everyone can take care of and improve that environment.

That could mean cleaning up a stream. Or it could mean cleaning up a vacant lot. It could mean planting a garden along with your neighbors or doing a graffiti paint-out with them. You and your group can adopt a park, adopt a stream, adopt a street, adopt a beach — and those are just the programs that already exist.

You can make up your own. How about, for instance, Adopt-a-Ditch? What good is a ditch? A lot of good, as it turns out. Kristi Silver in Metro's Water Resources thinks that people don't give ditches the credit they deserve. An open ditch lets water be absorbed into the ground, cleansing runoff and filtering out harmful pollutants through the grass before they reach the water table and, eventually, the water that reaches our neighborhood water bodies and Puget Sound.

But you don't even have to leave your home to do an environmental project. What you use to scour your sink and wash your clothes affects the environment. So does how much water and heat you use. So does what you do with your trash.

No Project Is Too Small

What each person does makes a difference. What each neighborhood does makes a difference multiplied many times. Even small actions can make a big difference. Consider, for instance, what happens when you plant a tree.

Trees fight air pollution by releasing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. They settle dust and smog particles. Trees fight noise pollution by absorbing traffic and other noise. Trees fight water pollution by soaking up some of the runoff that otherwise would wash dirt and toxics down the drain and into our water sources. Trees provide homes for birds, insects, and small animals. Trees can increase privacy, screen things you don't want to look at, and are themselves good to look at. Pretty often, they're also good to smell.

Trees enhance your neighborhood climate: they block wind, reduce heat and glare, and can even help insulate a building against winter cold. Trees build community spirit. They build neighborhoods — “not just rows of houses,” as tree planter Liz Ellis says, “but real neighborhoods where people know each other.”

Or consider a mural painted on the side of a building, on a bus shelter, or even on a trash can. A mural is a fairly small thing. Yet its effects are far-reaching. Glenna B. Avila, former director of Los Angeles’ City-Wide Mural Project put it this way:

“Murals are about people having an effect on their cities, taking responsibility for their visual and physical environment, leaving records of their lives and concerns and, in the process, transforming neighborhoods, reducing vandalism and graffiti, and creating new artists of the youth of our communities.”

Small, simple actions add up. You make a difference in the environment when you:

- Walk or bike instead of driving.
- Reuse envelopes and wrapping paper.
- Turn off faucets tightly and fix drips and leaks.
- Turn off lights when you’re not using them.
- Reuse plastic bags.

These are actions so simple that even a child can do them — which isn’t a bad idea.

No Project Is Too Big

Keep in mind the way that Metro got started. In 1958, Lake Washington was close to being biologically dead, killed by the sewage and garbage that got dumped in it. Community leaders and neighbors got together to tackle the problem: they gathered information then used the information they gathered to conduct publicity campaigns and, finally, come up with an alternate plan of action.

Like anyone doing any kind of project, they got informed and they got involved. Granted, saving Lake Washington was an extremely big project. As always, cleanup costs a lot more than prevention. It’s a project, though, that reminds us of the kind of people who live in Seattle — people who value the beauty around them and are willing to work hard to protect it.

Seattle’s citywide recycling effort is something else that shows what people are willing and able to do. When curbside recycling started in 1988, there were high hopes that, after a year, 40% of residents would sign up. Instead, 50% signed up after only five months. Ever since, the recycling programs can barely keep up with Seattle residents’ enthusiasm and their requests for more kinds of programs. Composting programs and plastic recycling were added; ferrous metals will be added soon.

The statistics are impressive.

After just one year of recycling, by 1989, 24% less garbage made its way to be landfill.

In 1986, the average Seattle resident had three garbage cans. In 1992, the average Seattle resident had only one. “Friends of Recycling,” a group of volunteers who help with recycling in their neighborhoods, currently has a membership of 170, with more people signing up each year.

People come from all over the United States and from Europe to study Seattle’s recycling efforts. The programs are good — but it is the people who make the programs work.

Big or Small — Working with What You Have

Cathy Miller led the project to create an urban wildlife habitat at John Hay Elementary School, a place enjoyed by students and neighbors as much as by the birds it attracts. That project site had a low spot on it and every time there was rain the water would collect in that spot. “What we should’ve done,” said Miller,

“was just make a pool.” It’s better to work with your project’s “irregularities,” she advises, than to try to work against them. Before you start a project, take stock and ask whether your liabilities may not also be assets.

That wildlife habitat is on school grounds, but a park, a sloping greenbelt site, or a vacant lot could also work. Neighbors could combine backyards or front parking strips. Or you could scale down your habitat to match a very small site and create a butterfly garden with a few plants that are especially delicious to butterflies.

Cause for Hope?

There’s a lot that has been and is being done out there, in Seattle and the region and the world.

In the State’s Adopt-a-Highway program, groups take responsibility for a two-mile section of highway for two years, picking up litter at least five times a year. When I called Adopt-a-Highway to list it in the resources section, I was told that the program was full and had a waiting list! Fortunately, the City’s Adopt-a-Street program can satisfy anyone wanting to pick up litter in Seattle. And there is always the option to start your own project, tailor-made for your neighborhood.

Environmental action is a good example of people at the grassroots level taking the lead. Now that federal and state and local governments have all followed the lead of people, those governmental agencies have resources to offer in partnership with community efforts. But it is still up to people to make things happen.

The Seattle Environmental Priorities Project

Mayor Rice has made the environment a top priority. His Policy Advisory Committee of neighborhood and environmental activists along with technical experts assessed the environmental issues facing Seattle and the Puget Sound region. The resulting document, the Mayor’s Recommended Environmental Action Agenda, lays out a framework for future environmental action by the City, and also potentially by businesses, community groups, and individuals. It defines the City’s role in promoting environmental stewardship, suggests 10 guiding principles for fulfilling that role, and identifies priorities for further environmental action and other steps that could be taken in the long run. For more information about the Environmental Action Agenda, call the Planning Department’s Environmental Planning Unit at (206) 684-8377.

Resources

The final section of this booklet lists resources you can use if you are doing or if you want to do an environmental project. Although it turned into a long list, it was never intended to be exhaustive. The resources section, with its people and organizations and publications, is intended as a jumping-off place. It lists resources that will lead to other resources.

Probably, the most valuable resources listed are the names and phone numbers of people who have done and are doing projects in their neighborhoods. If a project sounds something like what you have in mind for your neighborhood, give the contact persons a call. If they can’t tell you what you need to know, they probably know who can.

This booklet uses the categories “Transportation Alternatives,” “Urban Forestry/Water,” “Noise Pollution,” and “Pollution Prevention/Waste Reduction.” (There’s also the catchall category “Environmental—General.”) You’ll see, though, that what’s listed in one category often could equally well go in another. Take the categories with a grain of salt. It’s hard to keep your categories straight when you’re dealing with the environment. Everything seems connected with everything else.

Household hazardous waste affects water quality. Tree planting affects noise pollution. Composting affects waste reduction. Gardening affects air quality. Transportation alternatives affect...all of the above. And it all affects our health and, what is so important to our health, our sense of well-being.

There's an economy to the way environmental projects won't stay put in any single category. When you create a project that improves one part of the environment, it is probably helping other parts of the environment as well. You get, as it were, more for your money.

That may be more than just a figure of speech. All funders have guidelines and areas of special interest. Since our environment affects pretty much every aspect of our lives, environmental projects stand a good chance of being able to relate to just about any funder's criteria. Health, art, children and youth, the elderly, minority groups, education, crime prevention, and community development are just a few of the priority areas where an environmental project could fit.

Which brings us back to the question originally posed: What is an environmental project?

The answer depends on your environment and on what you want to make of it.

Resources

This booklet doesn't try to give an exhaustive list of resources. It will point you to some directories and some agencies that offer information and assistance. But most importantly, this booklet gives the names and phone numbers of other people — just plain people — who have done environmental projects in their neighborhoods.

If the project you are doing, or are thinking about doing, is similar to theirs, give them a call. They can tell you what they did and what they would do differently if they had it to do over again. They can give you the names and phone numbers of people who can tell you what you need to know and people who can supply you with what you need for your project.

The environment does not lend itself to neat categories. Tree planting and litter cleanup and creek restoration and hazardous waste disposal and worm bins—they're all related. If you start working with one you are likely to find yourself working with others. Below you will find categories of "Environment—General," "Transportation Alternatives," "Noise Pollution," "Urban Forestry/Water," and "Pollution Prevention/Waste Reduction." Sometimes a project fits in more than one category.

Environment — General

People and Organizations

Washington Environmental Council

615 Second Avenue Suite 380

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 622-8103

website: www.wecprotects.org

This grassroots umbrella organization of individuals and over 100 groups working for a good environment in the Pacific Northwest creates and monitors a wide variety of environmental programs. It can give you information and referral to help your group accomplish its project.

Governmental Agencies

Office for Education

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

700 Third Avenue Suite 400

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 615-1554

The Environmental Education Coordinator (*Heather Moss*) can give you information about education programs serving Seattle residents from birth to grade 12.

Public Education and Information Office

Washington Department of Ecology

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia WA 98504-7600

(360) 407-6147

website: www.ecy.wa.gov

The Education Coordinator (*Rhonda Hunter*) can send you written materials and information and direct you to other resources on a variety of issues such as household hazardous waste, recycling, water conservation, composting, and storm drain stenciling. (See also "Publications Offices" under Publications.)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

1200 6th Ave.

Seattle WA 98101

Information: (206) 553-1200

Library: (206) 553-1289

Public Information Center: (206) 553-4973

Outside Seattle and within Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, call the Public Information Office at 1-800-424-4EPA. Staff can answer questions or connect you (toll-free) to the appropriate technical expert.

Transportation Alternatives

People and Organizations

Cascade Bicycle Club

Education Foundation

PO Box 15165

Seattle WA 98115

(206) 523-1952

Julie Salathe, Director

Website: www.cascade.org/Education

Cascade's Education Office offers materials and training programs on bicycle safety and effective cycling. The Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation provides education programs and consulting services to the community, free of charge, in the interest of creating a better community through bicycling.

Programs include helmet donations and low-cost helmets for sale (\$8); bike safety rodeo directions and equipment for loan; maps and brochures and classes/training programs for adults.

Commuter Challenge Program

Economic Development Council

701 5th Ave., Ste. 2510

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 386-5040

Commuter Challenge provides business leaders with expertise and support to create innovative solutions that reduce commute trips, while recognizing business needs and improving quality of life. Commuter Challenge publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, [The Pacesetter](#), which is available both electronically and in hard copy. The organization also maintains a web site at commuterchallenge.org and TheWinners.com, which contains information about the Diamond Award and Pacesetter winners, a [telework training video](#), [Pacesetter articles](#), [work options case studies](#), information about the [Employer Services Grants projects](#), and [links](#) to valuable transportation resources. To be included on the print or email distribution list, please provide your name, title, organization, address, phone number and email to hengelbrecht@commuterchallenge.org. (Throughout 2003)

Governmental Agencies

King County RoadShare Program

King County Department of Transportation
King Street Center
201 S Jackson Rm 415
Seattle WA 98104

The Roadshare Program provides bike maps free of charge to whoever needs one. It also answers questions and provides information on nonmotorized transportation in King County **Instructions:** Call Jim or mail your map request in to the address listed. **Contact Name:** [Jim Davis](#) **Contact Phone:** 206-263-4729

Metro Rideshare Operations

King County Metro Rideshare Operations provides various services to help you start pooling and to support your commuter pool. **Ridematch** - RideshareOnline.com is a free online self-serve ridematching service that -- in a matter of minutes, day or night -- helps you find others who want to carpool or vanpool and have a similar commute. **VanPool** - Metro manages the largest publicly owned and operated [vanpool program](#) in the nation, providing vans and everything else required to operate them. **Rideshare Plus Services** - a customized service approach to the task of forming carpools and vanpools for employers who opt to participate in a strategic rideshare formation program. [Find out more about this program](#). Contact Metro: vanpool.information@metrokc.gov (e-mail), (206)-625-4500 (voice), 1-800-427-8249 (toll free) or (206) 684-1855 (TTY).

Way to Go Seattle

Seattle Department of Transportation
Key Tower
700 Fifth Avenue Suite 3900
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 615-1550
website: www.cityofseattle.net/waytogo

Way to Go, Seattle is the City of Seattle's umbrella for a variety of initiatives intended to improve livability by reducing automobile usage for non-work trips - and increasing the use of busing, biking, walking, trip consolidation and carpooling instead.

Smart Moves

Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Department of General Administration
PO Box 41015
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-7318

Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/smartmoves

Smart Moves began as Oil Smart in 1990, developed by a group of people in the greater Seattle area who wanted to encourage conservation. Over the years, the focus of Smart Moves has expanded to include air quality and traffic congestion. The campaign has evolved into a grassroots movement of individuals, communities, businesses, agencies and other groups in counties across the state of Washington. These groups join forces each year to promote the use of commute alternatives.

City of Seattle Bicycle Program

Seattle Department of Transportation

Key Tower

700 Fifth Avenue Suite 3900

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 684-8548

website: www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/bikeprogram.htm

SDOT's Bicycle Program has been working steadily toward developing an urban trail system to accommodate bicyclists. Urban trails include multi-use trails, bike lanes, bike routes, arterials with wide shoulders, and pedestrian paths. Seattle has about 28 miles of bicycle trails and paths, 14 miles of on-street, striped bike lanes, and about 90 miles of signed bike routes.

Adopt-a-Stop

Adopt-A-Stop Coordinator

King County Department of Transportation

Transit Power and Facilities Section

M.S. KSC-TR-0417

201 S. Jackson St.

Seattle, WA 98104-3856

Fax: (206) 684-1503

E-mail: adoptastop@metrokc.gov

The King County Adopt-A-Stop Program supports your desire to maintain your neighborhood's appearance by reducing litter at and around unsheltered King County Metro Transit (Metro) bus zones. The program establishes a partnership between volunteers and Metro. Volunteers can "adopt" one or more unsheltered bus zones.

Urban Forestry/Water

People and Organizations

Longfellow Creek Cleanup and Restoration

The Delridge community worked with government agencies and others to restore Longfellow Creek. They worked to reduce pollution in the creek and to improve storm water retention, year-round creek flow, the fish population, and wildlife habitat.

Vivian McLean (932-9169) has worked with environmental concerns for 30 years, initiating the Longfellow Creek cleanup and restoration project. She helps mentor other groups, giving them encouragement and the names of other resource persons.

Sylvia Odom (767-6433) is a resident on Longfellow Creek and sits on the Longfellow Creek Watershed Action Plan management committee. She works to encourage neighbors to participate in the creek project.

Puget Creek

Puget Creek is part of the Duwamish watershed. The Puget Ridge Neighborhood Council, a group within the larger Delridge District, has worked to (1) protect the remaining drainage basin of Puget Creek in Puget Park and (2) monitor development to protect the stream corridor and wetland above the creek.

Noelle Congdon (762-7069) can give you information on protecting against undesirable development and can give you names of resource persons.

Mike Silvers (762-0649) can give you information about wetlands preservation and habitat restoration.

Sandy Lea (763-3453) can give you information about her work getting the Neighborhood Council started, serving on the Steering Committee, and chairing the Drainage Committee.

"It's just neighbors like ourselves getting together a number of people who recognize the importance of protecting our natural greenspaces and speaking up."

Noelle Congdon

Weather Watch Park

Once a litter-filled, overgrown vacant street end, this small site was made into an area that is simultaneously a park, a historical landmark, and a work of art (it is filled with art that was either designed or created by Lezlie Jane). Drought- and salt-resistant plants were used to landscape. A path down to the beach was created.

Lezlie Jane (938-4922), artist and Alki resident, conceived of this project, raised funds for it (the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, the Lions Club of West Seattle, and many individuals and businesses, along with the Neighborhood Matching Fund), and has taken it through every stage.

College Street Ravine Restoration Project

Friends of College Street Ravine

Neighbors formed Friends of College Street Ravine to preserve and revegetate this undeveloped ravine in West Seattle. (See project profile in "Some Neighborhood Success Stories with the Neighborhood Matching Fund.")

Charlie Chong (937-6929) can tell you about the group and how it accomplished its goals.

Blair Constantine (937-6672) is one of the group's core members and a landscape architect specializing in native plant restoration.

Thornton Creek Alliance

940 NE 147th
Seattle WA 98155
(206) 365-4477

Thornton Creek is as large as all of Seattle's other creeks combined. It includes Mock Creek, Maple Creek, Little's Creek, Littlebrook Creek, Kramer Creek, Victory Creek, and Meadowbrook Wetlands. The Thornton Creek Alliance was formed by neighbors who wanted to preserve and enhance the stream and its surrounding open space system. To do this, they work to make drainage improvements, acquire key open space parcels, restore habitat damaged by development, and educate neighbors and school children in the watershed.

Janet Way (365-4477) can talk to you about neighborhood action strategies. She is the Alliance's Outreach Committee Coordinator and also the President of Paramount Park Neighborhood Group.

Cheryl Klinker (298-7240, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) handles the Alliance's newsletter and operations (minutes, agenda, membership).

Michael Brokaw (329-9272) is a former tour guide for the Arboretum. He leads "web walks" that explore an area's cultural and natural history and how people and landscape interact, giving people a deeper sense of where they live. The walks are part of North Seattle Community College's continuing education program (call him for when they will next be available). Individual tours apart from the class also can be arranged. He has led web walks at Thornton Creek and Licton Springs and can give a group tools to develop a web walk of its own.

Skip Knox (363-6906) can give you referrals and information, especially about how to get your group started.

Meadowbrook Wetlands Restoration

Meadowbrook Advisory Council

A ballfield built on a former wetlands area didn't bode well for either the ballfield or the wetlands. This restoration project is one of the many efforts to restore, protect, and enhance the Thornton Creek watershed. The project set out to restore Meadowbrook wetlands, create wildlife habitat, make the adjacent hillside usable for passive recreation, and make the ballfield more usable for playing ball. (See project profile in "Some Neighborhood Success Stories with the Neighborhood Matching Fund.")

Jeanne Brovold (767-5403) is the project's former chair. A CPA, she prepared the project budget.

Janine VanSanden (524-8618) is project coordinator. She helped draw up project plans and did community outreach for the project.

John Hay Urban Wildlife Habitat

This project at John Hay Elementary School was constructed with native Northwest plants to provide habitat for disappearing Northwest wildlife, primarily birds. Community and school people constructed the habitat on school grounds, hold related workshops, and coordinate with neighbors to grow compatible yard plants.

Cathy Miller (282-3182) organized the project through the John Hay PTA. She coordinated a broad spectrum of community groups and professionals to do the work, raised funds, and took the training offered through the Washington Department of Wildlife's Landscaping for Wildlife program (formerly Project WILD). She can give you information, visit your proposed site, and tell you about workshops that she may be leading.

Licton Springs Park Project

Licton Springs Community Council

Located in the Densmore Drain, between Pipers and Thornton Creek, Licton Springs Park contains a pond, a stream, and springs. The project has worked to clean the pond, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, plant native vegetation, and make other improvements to the park.

Cat Newsheller (524-6497) can talk to you about any aspect of this revegetation and erosion-reduction project.

Friends of Fauntleroy Creek

Formed to protect West Seattle's Fauntleroy Creek, this group has worked to restore the creek and to make neighbors aware that the creek exists and that they are living in a watershed.

The group received several Metro Community Action Grants for water quality monitoring equipment, sign construction materials, newsletter publishing and mailing costs, watershed brochures, screening materials for constructing a nitrate reduction pond, and also for vegetation and ground cover.

Judy Pickens (938-4203) can talk to you about organizing a neighborhood project and about working with watershed and creek restoration including revegetation, community education, partnership formation, newsletter production. She can put you in touch with resource persons and is willing to share her mailing list.

"It's very possible to make a difference with just a few people."

Judy Pickens

Ravenna Creek Alliance

5116 26th Ave. NE

Seattle WA 98105

For the past 50 years, Ravenna Creek has been channeled through a pipe directly into a sewage treatment plant. The Ravenna Creek Alliance is a grassroots-driven group formed to bring Ravenna Creek back to

the surface between Ravenna Park and Union Bay, and to maintain the creek once “daylighted” as a major amenity in the neighborhood. The project is still in the preliminary design stage.

The group received a Metro Community Action Grant to produce a brochure and a 10-minute video about the project and host an educational program, using a 25-foot-long generic salmon sculpture as a focal point for the event at University Village. The video and brochure raised awareness of water quality issues in the creek and educated residents about habitat, ecology, hydrology.

Kit O'Neill (523-4523) can tell you about the Alliance’s efforts to date. She can sign you up (no matter what neighborhood you live in!) as an Alliance member.

Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project

This award-winning project works cooperatively with community councils, chambers of commerce, Metro, Seattle Department of Parks, the Drainage and Wastewater Utility, and the Washington Departments of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecology. Its programs include (1) the Carkeek Park Stream Naturalist education program for adults to learn about water quality monitoring and observation, cleanup, planting, and creek restoration and (2) the Annual Earth Day celebration at Carkeek Park, focusing on watershed education, recycling, cleanup, and fish enhancement.

Nancy Malmgren (363-4116 after 7:00 p.m.), the Action Project’s executive secretary, can give you information about Project programs.

Pipers Creek Watershed Interpretive Project

The Project works with the Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project to help teach about and improve nonpoint source pollution in the area.

Sherry Mathers (386-4237), the Pipers Creek Watershed Interpretive Specialist, advises Broadview, Greenwood, Viewlands, Blue Ridge, and Crown Hill residents on water quality education and questions. She can give referrals. She also works with other watershed groups to teach about water quality.

Tree Planting

Liz Ellis (726-1479), Miller Park Neighborhood Association, has worked with every aspect of tree planting: writing grants, fund raising, putting together projects, coordinating volunteers, conducting training, and assisting groups and individuals. Miller Park Neighborhood Association planted 300 trees between 1990 and 1992.

“The main thing I’ve learned from all this is about community — a community of people. Planting trees helps build neighborhoods — not just rows of houses, but real neighborhoods where people know each other.”

Liz Ellis

“You can bring together people from complete opposite ends of the spectrum on politics, religion, everything. Tree planting is a bridge between people who might have seen each other as having absolutely nothing in common. There’s something wonderful about trees, something that hits people....”

Liz Ellis

Laura Matter (723-5521), Genesee Park Adopt-a-Park Group, has written grants, raised funds, put together projects, and coordinated volunteers for street tree and park reforestation projects. Genesee Park Adopt-a-Park Group planted 200 trees between 1990 and 1992.

Jan Paterson (783-1731), Greenwood Community Council, and *Randy Robinson* (789-1934), Phinney Community Council, have worked with projects that have planted over 1,000 trees in Ballard, Greenwood, and Phinney. They can tell you about those projects and how they have leveraged them to create even more projects.

Open Space Advocates

Jerry Arbes, Chair
1122 36th Ave.

Seattle WA 98122

(206) 329-9329

The Open Space Advocates is a group of community activists from neighborhoods throughout Seattle working to ensure the preservation and enhancement of Seattle's open space heritage and the development of a comprehensive open space system, including greenspaces, parks and recreation facilities, community gardens, boulevards, and trails.

The group holds regular meetings to discuss open space issues with various invited guests. Its goal is to expand community involvement in open space and planning issues, educate those in attendance on timely issues related to open space, and make policy- and decision-makers aware of the community's open space concerns.

Seattle Tilth Association

Good Shepherd Center

4649 Sunnyside Ave. N

Seattle WA 98103

(206) 633-0451

This nonprofit organization offers education about organic gardening, composting, and other topics through educational workshops and children's gardening programs; a resource library (see "Libraries" under Publications); a demonstration garden; answers to questions over the phone and in the garden. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays.

Student Conservation Association, Inc.

1265 S Main St Suite 210

Seattle WA 98144

(206) 324-4649

website: www.thesca.org/northwest

This nonprofit educational organization is the nation's largest provider of full-time volunteers, student and adult, to assist with conservation projects. Recent programs have emphasized the involvement of urban high school students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. To discuss the Association as a model for volunteer involvement or to discuss the possibility of partnership with the Association, call *Alexander Olsen*, the Northwest Coordinator.

The Puget Soundkeepers Alliance

4401 Leary Way NW

Seattle WA 98107

(206) 297-7002

website: www.pugetsoundkeeper.org

The mission of Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is to protect and preserve Puget Sound by tracking down and stopping the discharge of toxic pollutants into its waters. The Alliance is the *only* organization that actively monitors and patrols the waters of Puget Sound to detect and document sources of illegal pollution. While it is not our only approach to conservation efforts in the Sound, it is one of our greatest strengths. The Alliance is part of the Waterkeeper Alliance founded by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the fastest growing environmental movement in the world. These keepers act as stewards for their rivers, lakes, bays, sound, or coast. The goal of our organization is simple, to prevent pollution.

People for Puget Sound

911 Western Avenue Suite 580

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 382-7007

website: www.pugetsound.org

People For Puget Sound is a non-profit citizens' group working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits through education and action.

PlantAmnesty

PO Box 15377

Seattle WA 98115

(206) 783-9813

Website: www.plantamnesty.org

This nonprofit organization promotes better urban tree and shrub care. It offers speakers on tree planting and pruning; pruning classes, lectures, and workshops; brochures, videos, articles, and books; a referral service of prequalified gardeners and arborists.

TREEmendous Seattle!

7400 Sand Point Way

Seattle WA

(206) 985-6867

This nonprofit umbrella organization of people and organizations works to plant trees in the greater Seattle area. It can provide tree planting information, the trees themselves, and volunteer assistance.

The Trust for Public Land

506 2nd Ave.

Smith Tower 1510

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 587-2447

This national nonprofit organization acts as a middleman for acquiring land such as urban natural areas and community parks. It is not a granting agency, but uses a revolving fund for temporary purchase and helps search for a permanent funder and manager of land. Seattle is the Northwest Regional Headquarters. For general information, call the Public Affairs Coordinator, *Mary Lou Cooper*. For information about a specific project's potential, call Project Associate, *Stephanie Taylor*.

Governmental Agencies

P-Patch Program

Department of Neighborhoods

700 Third Avenue Suite 400

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 684-0464

P-Patch community gardens exist in many Seattle neighborhoods. The Program wants every neighborhood to have a garden and is eager to work with community groups to accomplish that. The gardens cultivate friendships, strengthen neighborhoods, increase self-reliance, provide public open space, foster environmental awareness, relieve hunger, improve nutrition, and create recreational and therapeutic opportunities. The Program updates its information and materials resource list each year and has a quarterly newsletter. Call for information or to get an application to garden your own P-Patch.

City Arborist's Office

Seattle Department of Transportation

Key Tower

700 Fifth Avenue

Seattle WA 98104

[Nolan Rundquist](#), City Arborist, Street Tree Management, (206) 615-0957

[Judi Johanson](#), Administrative Assistant. Call for general information, (206) 684-7649.

Tree planting on public streets has to take into consideration things like power lines, pedestrians, motorist visibility. The Arborist's Office can give you written and verbal information on which trees are best to plant where and when, and how to plant and take care of street trees. Call the Office for information on

tree planting. Call to have an inspector look at your site and issue you a free permit. (Try the information line first.)

Community and Urban Forestry Program
Washington Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 47037
Olympia, WA 98504
360-902-1703, or 1-800-523-8733
e-mail: urbanforestry@wadnr.gov
website: www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/rp/urban/urban.htm

The Community and Urban Forestry Coordinator has books, pamphlets, videos, and other resource materials available free or on loan to local tree-planting groups. The Department offers grants for tree planting (see Community and Urban Forestry Program under Funders, Urban Forestry/Water).

Master Gardener Program
Washington State University—
Co-operative Extension, King County
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120
Renton, WA
206-205-3100 or 1-800-325-6165, ext. 5-3100
website: www.metrokc.gov/DCHS/CSD/WSU-CE

The Master Gardener Program can provide a list of speakers by topic, handouts on many gardening-related topics, and information over the phone. The Program also trains volunteers who in turn train and work with community groups. It also presents neighborhood clinics throughout King County.

Project Development Division
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
RDA Building
800 Maynard Ave S
Mailbox 16
Seattle, WA 98134
206-684-7023

Water and Land Resources Division
King County Department of Parks and Natural Resources
201 S Jackson St
Suite 2201
Seattle WA 98104
206-296-6500
website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr>

Land/Water Stewardship Program
Washington State University—
Co-operative Extension, King County
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120
Renton, WA
206-205-3100 or 1-800-325-6165, ext. 5-3100
<http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/wsu-ce/land&water/association.htm>

The Land/Water Stewardship Program can provide speakers on streams, wetlands, wildlife, and other stewardship concerns. The Program offers training opportunities to become part of the speakers bureau and other community education services.

Seattle Public Utilities
Conservation and Environment Division
Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)
Key Tower
700 Fifth Avenue - Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98104-5020
Reception: (206) 684-7666
Website: www.cityofseattle.net/util/RESCONS/default.htm

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Volunteer Opportunities
360-902-2252
e-mail: volunteers@dfw.wa.gov
website: <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/volunteer/vol-8.htm>

If you are interested in doing a project to help salmon, such as planting eggs or cleaning a stream, the Program can help your group get started on the right foot and provide information along the way.

Public Education Section
Seattle Fire Department
220 Third Ave S
Seattle WA 98104
206-386-1335

The Public Education Program Supervisor (*Lisa Van Horn*) can provide speakers on fire-related topics for schools, businesses, and neighborhood groups and for special events.

The Seattle Aquarium
Programs and Exhibits
1483 Alaskan Way (Pier 59)
Seattle WA 98101
(206) 386-4300

The Aquarium offers environmental education programs for children. It offers adult environmental education programs such as eagle watching, whale watching, kayaking the Skagit River Delta. A speakers bureau presents slideshows on topics such as Puget Sound natural history and marine mammals of Washington.

Woodland Park Zoo
Education Department
5500 Phinney Ave. N
Seattle WA 98103

The Zoo offers a variety of environmentally related educational resources that can help you plan your project. It offers an exhibit on enhancing wildlife habitat in your backyard. It offers classes, workshops, and programs on Northwest habitats and animals. For more information about classes and workshops, call (206) 684-4800

Pollution Prevention/ Waste Reduction

People and Organizations

Washington Citizens for Recycling

157 Yesler Way, Ste. 309
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 343-5171

This citizen-based group promotes recycling by (1) general education, (2) lobbying and legislation (state and federal), and (3) special projects that it designs and implements. It can provide technical assistance, referrals, and volunteer opportunities. For more information, call *David Stitzel*, Project Manager, or *Heidi Wachter*, Volunteer Coordinator.

Washington Toxics Coalition

4649 Sunnyside Avenue N Suite 340
Seattle WA 98103
(206) 632-1545
website: www.watoxics.org

This nonprofit membership organization conducts its own projects and assists with other groups' projects having to do with groundwater protection, pesticide reform, household toxics, and industrial pollution. It can assist neighborhood groups organize their projects. It has a slide show and speakers available on pesticides and on household and industrial toxics. It provides information and referral. The Coalition publishes a quarterly newsletter and fact sheets on alternatives to hazardous materials in the home and garden.

Governmental Agencies

Seattle Public Utilities

Key Tower
700 Fifth Avenue Suite 4900
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 684-3000
website: www.cityofseattle.net/util

Information about garbage, recycling, and waste reduction options in Seattle has been translated into Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. You can request it by calling the Solid Waste Utility at 684-7600.

Spring Clean (Seattle's Cleanup of Public Spaces)

Seattle Public Utilities

Key Tower
700 Fifth Avenue Suite 4900
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 684-3000
website: www.cityofseattle.net/util

Neighborhood Cleanup Program

Seattle Conservation Corps

Department of Parks and Recreation
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Bldg 5B

Seattle WA 98115
(206) 684-0190
website: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/scc

The Corps conducts yearly neighborhood cleanups. It works with community groups to rid neighborhoods of large junk and unwanted appliances and it assists community volunteers clean private and public areas such as parks and vacant lots. It will help you plan special projects in conjunction with the yearly cleanup. (Note: This is not Spring Clean.)

**Adopt-a-Street
Seattle Public Utilities**

Key Tower
700 Fifth Avenue Suite 4900
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 684-3000
website: www.cityofseattle.net/util

The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator (*Sue Honaker*) can give you information on how your group can adopt a one-mile stretch of street. A group picks up litter and paints out graffiti on its adopted street at least four times a year. (Free garbage bags and litter pick-up, and equipment to borrow.) A group that wants more challenging projects on its adopted street can paint trash cans or bus shelter murals, plant flowers or trees, hang banners.

Industrial Material Exchange (IMEX)

Website: www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/IMEX
(206) 296-4899 or out of the area, 1-888-TRY-IMEX

This information clearinghouse for both hazardous and non-hazardous “waste” matches up businesses who want materials with businesses who want to get rid of the same materials. It offers a catalog and a computerized bulletin board. (IMEX is a service offered under the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program and managed by the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health.)

Hazards Line

Seattle-King County Department of Public Health

(206) 296-4692

The Hazards Line gives information over the phone and also mails out information on topics such as hazardous waste, indoor air pollution, and community toxics.

Publications

Libraries

Seattle Public Library

1000 4th Ave.
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 386-INFO

Although all branch libraries have books on environmental concerns, most material is at the main library downtown.

There is no one place in the library to go for material about environmental concerns. Environment-related materials get categorized under Business/Technology, Science/Social Science, Humanities — all over. Find any librarian and explain what you want. He or she will direct you to the best place. Be prepared to have to go to several desks, wait in line a little, use reference materials in the library (photocopiers available).

Hazardous Waste Library, Metro

Website: <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/hwl/>

The Library offers small businesses, citizens, agency staff and local officials one place to go for hazardous waste information. The Library has on-site resources and is linked by computer to environmental information throughout the world. Anyone in King County, Washington can [request help via e-mail](#), in person or by phone. Library services include: reference help, on-line database searching, an extensive in-house collection of business and household hazardous waste materials, subject bibliographies, and more.

**Environmental Protection Agency Library
U.S. EPA Region 10 Public Information Center**

Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday - Friday, except Federal Holidays

Phone: 206-553-1289 or 800-424-4EPA (ask for Library)

Fax: 206-553-6346

Email: library-reg10@epa.gov

Website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/omp.nsf/webpage/Region+10+Library+-+Home?OpenDocument>

The EPA Library has mainly technical reports and reference works. Most materials must be used in the library, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (photocopiers not available). The Library can also guide you to where else to look for information. (For free, non-technical written materials from the EPA, see "Publications Offices.")

Outside Seattle and within Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, call the Public Information Office at 1-800-424-4EPA. Staff can answer questions or connect you (toll-free) to the appropriate technical expert.

**Energy Library
Washington State Energy Office**

P.O. Box 43169

Olympia, WA 98504-3169

(360) 956-2076 (Phone)

(360) 956-2217 (Fax)

library@wseo.wa.gov

The Energy Library provides energy information to people throughout the Pacific Northwest. It offers books, periodicals, and technical reports; reference services; and research assistance via online database search, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. You can borrow Energy Library materials through any library via Interlibrary Loan.

Seattle Tilth Association Library

4649 Sunnyside Ave. N

Seattle WA 98103

(206) 633-0451

website: www.seattletilth.org

The Association has resources on organic gardening, composting, and other topics. Materials must be used in the library 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. weekdays.

**Center for Urban Horticulture Library
University of Washington**

3501 NE 41st St

PO Box 354115

University of Washington
Seattle WA 98195
(206) 543-0415
website: <http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib>

Open to the public, the library has books and periodicals on gardening, community gardening, and urban forestry. Most materials must be used in the library. Call for current hours.

Publications Offices

Publications Office
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Region 10 Public Information Center
1200 6th Ave.
Park Place Bldg., 14th flr.
Seattle WA 98101
(206) 553-1200
e-mail: Jeff@epa.gov

For a publications list of the EPA's free, non-technical written materials or audio visual materials, or for the materials themselves, call the Publications Office.

Outside Seattle and within Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, call the Public Information Office at 1-800-424-4EPA. Staff can answer questions or connect you (toll-free) to the appropriate technical expert.

Publications Office
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600
(206) 438-7472
website: www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs.shtm
The Office has materials on a wide variety of environment-related topics. Its directory, "Environmental Education Resources," lists materials and its how-to manual, "Designing Community Environmental Education Programs," gives ideas for educating your community. Contact the Office for information or a list of available materials.

Directories

Other Books and Materials

Public Involvement and Education

Model Projects Fund:

47 Success Stories from Puget Sound

This book describes 47 diverse projects that successfully educated people and got them involved in water quality protection (projects sponsored by the PIE-Grant — see Public Involvement and Education [PIE] Grant under Funders). It lists each project's sponsors, purpose, methods, materials produced, results, target audience, and cost. Available from Puget Sound Water Quality Authority.

The SoundBook: Easy to Put Together!

A Piece-By-Piece Game Plan for Maintaining

the Health of the Puget Sound Region

This highly illustrated educational booklet discusses each aspect of Puget Sound's ecosystem with suggestions for action and available resources. Available from Puget Sound Water Quality Authority.

General awareness-raising materials (***Puget Sound: Our Heritage at Risk***) and a pamphlet on public shellfish sites are also among the publications available from:

Puget Sound Water Quality Authority
MS PV-15
Olympia WA 98504-0900
1-800-54-SOUND

**"A Waste Reduction Activity Guide
for Community Centers"**

This idea book for citizen groups who want to get people involved in waste reduction is available from *Carl Woestwin* at:

Environmental Allowance Program
Seattle Solid Waste Utility
710 2nd Ave., Ste. 505
Seattle WA 98104
(206) 684-4684

How to Save a Wetland: A Step-by-Step Guide for Concerned Neighborhood Groups

To get a copy, send a check for \$8, made out to *Vicki Westberg*, to:

Paramount Park Neighborhood Group
1231 NE 148th
Seattle WA 98155

For more information, call (206) 365-4477.

"Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Packet"

To request this packet of information on native plants, landscaping for wildlife, nest boxes, and other topics send a postcard to:

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program
Washington Department of Wildlife
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek WA 98012

"Mayor's Recommended Environmental Action Agenda: Environmental Stewardship in Seattle"

This report was produced by the Seattle Planning Department, September 1992, as part of the Seattle Environmental Priorities Project. The report prioritizes the City's environmental-related goals and makes suggestions for the City and the community to accomplish them. For more information, call the Department's Environmental Planning Unit at 684-8377.

Funders

Different funders want to hear from you in different ways. Some specify that they do not accept unsolicited proposals. For your initial contact, send a letter of inquiry or call to request funding guidelines.

Some granters require a group to have official nonprofit status. If your group does not, it may be able to come under an umbrella organization that can in effect lend you that status.

Many other funders may be willing to consider environmental projects if a proposed project is related to children, for instance, or health or a particular disadvantaged community.

There are many more funders than those listed here. Take advantage of the directories of funders, of the downtown Seattle Public Library's collection of materials on fund raising, and of the advice of others who have sought funding.

Environment—General

Neighborhood Matching Fund

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

700 3rd Ave. Suite 400

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 684-0464

The Neighborhood Matching Fund co-sponsors planning, organizing, and improvement projects done by neighborhood organizations. Projects must benefit one or more Seattle neighborhoods. The neighborhood organizations contribute volunteer time, cash, donated materials, or other resources to match City funding.

The Neighborhood Matching Fund has (1) the Small and Simple Projects Fund, which awards up to \$15,000 to projects that can be completed within six months following award and (2) the Large Projects Fund for funds up to \$100,000 that will take place within the calendar year following the award. For help in shaping your project or applying to the Fund, call the Department of Neighborhoods.

The Bullitt Foundation

1212 Minor Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

206-343-0807

E-mail: info@bullitt.org

Website: www.bullitt.org

The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that address Pacific Northwest environmental issues in the categories of (1) Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, (2) The Columbia River Basin, (3) Open Space, (4) Forests, (5) Energy and Transportation, (6) Environmental Justice, (7) Other.

The Seattle Foundation

Phone: (206) 622-2294 Fax: (206) 622-7673

Mailing: The Seattle Foundation

425 Pike Street, Suite 510

Seattle, WA 98101-2334

Email: grantmaking@seattlefoundation.org.

Website: <http://www.seattlefoundation.org>

The Foundation makes grants to King County nonprofit groups for projects that improve the quality of life in the Puget Sound region. Project categories include conservation, education, health, children and youth. Highest priority given to requests for specific capital needs. Request guidelines.

Separate guidelines are available for The Neighbor to Neighbor Small Grants Program which distributes small grants for training and technical assistance to emerging and established neighborhood groups in Southeast Seattle.

Washington Foundation for the Environment

PO Box 2123

Seattle, WA 98111

Website: <http://www.wffe.org/>

This nonprofit organization supports groups and individuals working on the cutting edge of environmental concerns in Washington. It provides grants for small but well-focused local environmental projects. It also sponsors environmental education (students and general public) and organizes conferences on crucial environmental issues. Send a letter of inquiry.

Environment—General (regional and beyond)

M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust

John Van Zytveld, Ph.D.
Senior Program Director
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
P.O. Box 1618
Vancouver, WA 98668
Website: <http://www.murdock-trust.org/>

The Trust makes environmental grants to Pacific Northwest nonprofit organizations for projects in the categories of education, scientific research, and health. Send a letter of inquiry summarizing the main elements of your proposal.

Public Welfare Foundation, Inc.

1200 U St
Washington DC 20009
202-965-1800
Website: <http://www.publicwelfare.org/index.html>

Environmental funding is primarily focused on advancing the grassroots movement, through direct support of either community-based groups or organizations that provide them with technical assistance. Of particular concern are environmental problems that pose an imminent threat to disadvantaged communities. Request Proposal Outline.

Urban Forestry/Water

Community and Urban Forestry Program Grant

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Urban Forestry Program office at PO Box 47037, Olympia, WA 98504
1-800-523-TREE or e-mail us at urban_forestry@wadnr.gov.

American Conservation Association, Inc.

Charles M. Clusen, Executive Director
30 Rockefeller Plz. Rm. 5600
New York, NY 10112

Application Address

1350 New York Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 624-9367

The Association funds activities directed toward information and action programs that increase public understanding of conservation issues and citizen participation in their resolution. Send a short letter and proposal.

The Lazar Foundation

William B. Lazar, Vice President
715 SW Morrison Street, Suite 901

Portland, Oregon 97205
503/225-0265 Fax: 503/225-9620
info@lazarfoundation.org

The Foundation supports grassroots organizations from Northwestern North America which are working with bio-regional environmental focus, coalition building, ecosystem-level management of natural resources. Environmental Application Guidelines available. Call or write a short letter.

Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.

Richard Reagan, President
250 W 88th St #806
New York, NY 10024
E-mail:

The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations doing projects that preserve, conserve, and protect the environment — especially natural resource conservation and environmental education. It prefers specific projects with completion dates and one-year projects. Write for guidelines.

Patagonia, Inc.

259 West Santa Clara St
Ventura, CA 93002
805-643-8616
Website www.patagonia.com

This outdoor-products manufacturer makes grants and donates clothing to grassroots and activist organizations working to support environmental issues, especially (1) habitat and wild river preservation and (2) environmental education. Send letter requesting guidelines.

The Sierra Club Foundation

85 Second Street, Suite 750
San Francisco, Ca 94105
Website: <http://www.tscf.org>

The Foundation supports grassroots environmental projects, especially but not exclusively those of the Sierra Club. It provides a funding service to community groups by acting as their fiscal sponsor. Funding Services Guide available.

Pollution Prevention/Waste Reduction

Public Participation Grant

Waste Management Grants Section

Washington State Department of Ecology

Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504
1-800-recycle
Website: ecy.wa.gov/biblio

The Public Participation Grant is for projects that address (1) the release of hazardous substances requiring cleanup and (2) waste reduction of any kind. The Grant has sponsored year-long programs, single events, surveys, and informational handbooks on topics such as composting and using less-toxic substances.

To be put on the mailing list to receive a copy of Public Participation Grant Guidelines and an application, call the receptionist at the number above. For more information about the Grant and for help applying, call the Project Officer (*Dolores Mitchell*) at (206) 438-7562.

Superfund Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10

Jeanne O'Dell

U.S. EPA Region 10

1200 6th Ave.

Seattle, WA 98101

206-553-6919

Debbie Larsen (Grants)

206-553-6701

The TAG Program provides funds for citizen groups to hire independent technical advisors of their own choosing to help them understand and comment on site-related technical factors and in that way participate in cleanup decisions. For an application package containing forms and “The Superfund Technical Assistance Grants Handbook,” call the number above.